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LETTER DATED 18 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued by the Ministry of Information and Culture of Eritrea at Asmara on 17 June 1998 concerning the condition of Eritrean civilians being harassed, expelled and detained by the Government of Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-17336 (E) 180698

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Annex

Statement on ordeals of Eritrean civilians detained, expelled and harassed by Ethiopia, issued on 17 June 1998 by the Ministry of Information and Culture of Eritrea

As the Government of Ethiopia continues to pursue its witch-hunt of Eritreans with greater intensity, 800 expelled Eritreans have arrived at the Eritrean border town of Om Hajer in the south-western tip of the country. They were sent on the longest and most arduous route to Eritrea. Meanwhile, reports coming from several sources indicate that thousands of Eritreans have been rounded up and are being held in a place called Guellele in the suburbs of the capital, Addis Ababa. The whereabouts of those arrested in other Ethiopian towns such as Mekelle, Bahr Dar and Dessie is not known. There is fear for the lives of those people, as there is no countervailing pressure from foreign embassies and international agencies in those areas. Moreover, the Government of Ethiopia continues to reject urgent demands from the international community to publish the full list of those it has arrested as well as those it is expelling.